

Claims:

1. A method for simultaneously slicing at least two food product blocks (2) fed in parallel to a blade (11), in which
 - the food product blocks (2) are each inserted into a feed passage (14)
 - optionally brought into contact with a limit stop (16),
 - conveyed towards the blade (11) and sliced, and
 - the ends (17) of the food product blocks (2) remote from the blade are each brought into contact with a means (1, 18),
characterised in that contact between the means (1, 18) and the food product block (2) occurs only during slicing of the respective food product block (2).
2. A method for simultaneously slicing at least two food product blocks (2) fed in parallel to a blade (11), in which
 - the food product blocks (2) are each inserted into a feed passage (14)
 - optionally brought into contact with a limit stop (16),
 - conveyed towards the blade (11) and sliced, and
 - the ends (17) of the food product blocks (2) remote from the blade are each brought into contact with a means (1, 18),
characterised in that the food product blocks (2) are not compressed or are compressed only insignificantly by the means (1, 18).
3. A method for simultaneously slicing a food product block (2) fed to a blade (11), characterised in that the food product block (2) is conveyed towards the blade (11) by at least one conveying means (4) and in that, at any desired time before or during slicing of the food product block, the rear end (17) of the food product block (2) is brought into contact in each case with a means (1, 18) and in that the means is driven during said contact with the food product block by the food product block (2) and/or the conveying means (4).

4. A method for simultaneously slicing at least two food product blocks (2) fed in parallel to a blade (11), in which
 - the food product blocks (2) are each inserted into a feed passage (14)
 - optionally brought into contact with a limit stop (16),
 - conveyed towards the blade (11) and sliced, and
 - the ends (17) of the food product blocks (2) remote from the blade are each brought into contact with a means (1, 18), characterised in that the front ends (19) of the food product blocks are arranged in such a way that, before the first cut, they are located in a line in a plane substantially parallel to the cutting plane (6) of the blade (11), such that no trimming cut has to be performed.
5. A method of slicing food product blocks, characterised in that a food product block is extended artificially before and/or during slicing by a means (1) for extending food product blocks (2).
6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the means (1, 18) is connected to the food product block reversibly and force-lockingly, interlockingly and/or by material bonding.
7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that connection of the means (1, 18) takes place before or preferably after slicing starts.
8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the means (1, 18) is removed from the feed passage after slicing.
9. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the connection between the means (1, 18) and the food product block (2) is broken once slicing of at least one food product block is completed.
10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the means (1) is driven, at least at times, solely by the conveying means (4) of the food product block and/or by the food product block (2).

11. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that, at least towards the end of the respective slicing process, the means (1, 18) is/are in each case engaged with at least one conveying means (4).
12. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that a plurality of food product blocks are sliced in parallel.
13. A device for severing food product slices (12) from at least one food product block (2) with a blade (11), in which device the food product block (2) may be conveyed towards the blade (11) by at least one conveying means (4) and its rear end (14) is in contact at least for a time with a means (1, 18), characterised in that the means (18) is not driven by its own drive at least during contact with the food product block (2).
14. A device according to claim 13, characterised in that at least two food product blocks (2) may each be conveyed by at least one conveying means (4) towards the blade (11) and their rear end (14) is in contact at least for a time in each case with a means (1, 18), and in that the means are arranged on a central unit (20) which is arranged on the device so as to be displaceable at least at times in parallel with the axis of rotation of the blade (11).
15. A device according to claim 13, characterised in that at least two food product blocks (2) may each be conveyed by at least one conveying means (4) towards the blade (11) and their rear end (17) is in contact at least for a time in each case with a means (1, 18), and the means are mounted on a central unit (20) so as in each case to be displaceable at least at times.
16. A device according to claim 15, characterised in that the means (1, 18) comprise a sensor with which their positions relative to the central unit may be determined.

17. A means (1) for extending food product blocks (2) in the axial direction, having a surface (3) which cooperates force-lockingly and/or interlockingly with conveying means (4), which convey the food product blocks (2) within a slicing device (5) towards the cutting plane (6), and a means (7) arranged at the end face which effects a force-locking, interlocking and/or materially bonded connection between the means (1) and the food product block (2).
18. A means according to claim 17, characterised in that the cross-section (8) of the outer circumferential surface (3) corresponds to the cross-section (9) of the food product block (2).
19. A means according to claim 18, characterised in that the cross-section (8) of the outer circumferential surface (3) does not correspond to the cross-section (9) of the food product block (2).
20. A means according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the cross-section (8) of the outer circumferential surface may vary in shape and/or size.
21. A means according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it comprises the conveying means (4) as drive, at least in the conveying direction of the food product block and after the force-locking, interlocking and/or materially bonded connection.
22. A means according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the means (7) is a claw and grip system.
23. A means according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the means (7) comprises a vacuum between the food product block and the end face (10).
24. A slicing device with a blade (11) which severs food product slices (12) from a food product block (2), which may be conveyed by conveying means in a feed passage in the direction of the blade, characterised in that

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it comprises a means which conveys a product extender (1) according to any one of claims 16 - 22 to the food product block to be sliced and/or removes it from the product passage.

25. A slicing device according to claim 24, characterised in that it comprises a means (13) which picks up the food product extender (1) after removal thereof and brings it up to the end of a further product block.
26. A slicing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it comprises a means with which a force-locking, interlocking and/or materially bonded connection is produced between the food product block and the product extender.
27. A slicing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it is driven by the conveying means, at least in the conveying direction of the food product block and after the force-locking, interlocking and/or materially bonded connection.